

10. (Amended) [Equipment] Apparatus in accordance with claim 7 [or 8 characterized in that] , wherein the channel walls are formed from a ceramic material, and wherein the resistor heating elements [(18, 19; 24-29) comprise] include band-shaped resistor heating elements mounted [at the] on an outer surface of the ceramic material [(3)] that [comprises] forms said channel [(1)] walls.

11. (Amended) [Equipment] Apparatus in accordance with [claims 7-10 characterized in that] claim 7, wherein the temperature equalization zone [is caused to have] has a length corresponding to at least 1-2 times the width of said channel.

REMARKS

The foregoing specification amendments add the preferred subheadings at appropriate places within the specification, and they also correct typographical and other minor errors. None of the amendments introduces new matter because each is based upon the international application as filed.

The claims as above amended present the claimed subject matter in the U.S. claim form to more particularly point out and more distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicants regard as their invention. Additionally, the claim amendments delete multiple claim dependency.

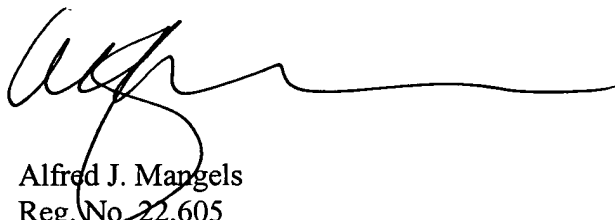
Attached hereto is an Abstract of the Disclosure presented on a separate sheet in conformity with the rules of practice.

Based upon the foregoing specification and claim amendments to this national phase

application, it is believed that the specification conforms with U.S. formal requirements. Additionally, because the amended claims as hereinabove presented conform in substance with the corresponding claims that were examined in the international application, and based upon the acceptance by the International Preliminary Examining Authority of the invention as it was claimed in the claims that were filed in the international application as meeting each of the novelty, the inventive step, and the industrial applicability criteria set forth in the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the claims in the present application are believed to conform with both U.S. formal and substantive requirements, and they are therefore believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is in order and is respectfully solicited.

Should the examiner have any question after considering this amendment, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that any such question can be quickly resolved, and in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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